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CONCORDIA LODGE,

No. 67, F. and A. M.,


PHILADELPHIA, PA.

In Memoriam.

PAST MASTER

BRO. GEORGE W. WOOD,

Grand Marshal of the R. W. Grand Lodge
of Pennsylvania.



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PHILADELPHIA:
PRESS OF McCALLA & STAVELY, 237-9 DOCK STREET.
1887.

OFFICERS

OF

Concordia Lodge, No. 67, F. & A. M.,

A. D. 1887; A. L. 5887.

W. M., BRO. JOHN CARTLEDGE.

S. W., BRO. WILLIAM H. ZIEGLER, M. D.

J. W., BRO. ADOLPH HAUG.

Treasurer, P. M. BRO. JOHN WORTHINGTON.

Secretary, P. M. BRO. CLIFFORD P. MAC CALLA.

S. D., BRO. GEORGE H. SMITH.

J. D., BRO. FREDERICK L. BREITINGER.

S. M. of C., BRO. EDWIN G. PARTRIDGE.

J. M. of C., BRO. J. LINDSAY LITTLE.

Chaplain, THE REV. BRO. JOHN A. CHILDS, D. D.

Pur., BRO. EDWARD EWING.

Tyler, BRO. BENJAMIN F. WEEKS.

Concordia Lodge, No. 67, F. & A. M.

AT a Stated Meeting of Concordia Lodge, No. 67, F. and A. M., held in Ionic Hall, Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert streets, Philadelphia, on Friday evening, February 11, A. D. 1887, A. L. 5887, by appointment of the Lodge, P. M. Brother CLIFFORD P. MACCALLA (Deputy Grand Master of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania) read the following Memorial of Past Master Brother GEORGE W. WOOD, which was on motion ordered to be entered in full on the Minutes, and also printed in pamphlet form for the use of the Lodge.

W. M., AND BRETHREN OF CONCORDIA LODGE, No. 67, F. AND A. M.:

IN complying with your request to "prepare a suitable Memorial of the life and Masonic services of P. M. Brother GEORGE W. WOOD," I am conscious equally of the importance and the difficulty of the

undertaking. The career of an individual who had lived over seventy-nine years in Philadelphia, and of a Craftsman who had frequented the Lodge and actively mingled with his Brethren for more than thirty-three years, necessarily includes many incidents of interest and value. I cannot hope to relate to you a tithe of these, nor do I flatter myself that I can do adequate justice to the long and distinguished Masonic life of one whom successive Grand Masters in this jurisdiction respected and honored, who was a Mentor to the Craft, who was classed with our three ancient Grand Masters, and often addressed as Hiram, being universally regarded as a Freemason tried, true and trusty, a skillful master workman, and a teacher of teachers in the Fraternity. Brother WOOD has left a record of which any Freemason might be proud, and I esteem it one of the valued Masonic privileges of my life to be permitted to lay this laurel wreath on his newly made grave, to pay this merited tribute to his worth as a man and a Mason.

GEORGE WALKER WOOD was the son of GEORGE and ANN WOOD, and was born in the city of Philadelphia on December 19th, 1807, and died in the same city on January 2d, 1887, in the 80th year of his age. After being educated in the public schools of the day, he learned the trade of a carpenter with WILLIAM RICHARDSON, on Gaskill street, and after attaining his majority became an em-

ploying Carpenter and Builder, and erected many buildings in the lower section of the city, including the old Swedenborgian Church (to which his father and he largely contributed), at Fourth and German streets, now used as a public hall. His father was an Episcopalian, but left that Church when his rector, the Rev. Mr. ROCHE, left it, and both became Swedenborgians. At his death he left a sum to build a church in Southwark, and that at Fourth and German streets was the result. His mother was a conscientious working Christian woman, always going about doing good. From this Christian mother, no doubt, Brother WOOD derived those generous charitable impulses which distinguished him through life, especially fitting him to become a Freemason, and which marked his career in death no less than in life, so that it is literally true that "he being dead yet speaketh."

Brother WOOD's early life eventuated in marked business success, so that he became a considerable property owner, building for himself as well as for others. But in middle life he met with reverses, and lost the most of his property; yet he never lost his self-reliance nor the respect of his fellows, and he continued to fight the battle of life with vigor and success, so that at his death he left a well-invested estate of over ten thousand dollars. First as a broker, with the well-known Third street house of CHARLES CAMBLOS & Co., and afterwards as a merchant's clerk with Col. JOSEPH

T. TOBIAS (a member of this Lodge), he won many friends, and maintained his character as an upright business man and a good citizen.

Brother WOOD was baptized in the Episcopal Church, at old St. Peter's, Third and Pine streets, and to the end of his life maintained his love for the services of the Protestant Episcopal Church. His remarkable vocal powers caused him to be in request at many of the churches. He was for some time a member of the choir of Christ Church, Second street above Market, and often sang at the Unitarian Church, Tenth and Locust, and also at various Roman Catholic Churches in our city. The Brethren of this Lodge well remember his vocal gifts, for at our banquets, as lately as those of the year just closed, he was ever ready to respond to the calls of his Brethren for a song, and although he had reached the ripe age of 79 years, his voice retained much of its pristine melody, and was always listened to with pleasure.

Brother WOOD was a bachelor, although he may almost be said to have been married to the Craft, so fond was he of its rites and ceremonies. But his life was not without its romance. He loved and lost his first sweetheart, death having claimed her as his own. He never loved another, never married, but evidently regarded our ancient and honorable Fraternity as though it had been his child as well as his

bride, and to it he left a liberal portion of his estate.

The good citizenship and patriotism of Brother WOOD were proved by his becoming a citizen-soldier, and by serving his country in 1861, in its hour of need. For twenty-five years he had been an active member and officer of the Washington Grays, and he was Captain of and drilled Company G, of the Gray Reserves (of which Brother PETER C. ELLMAKER, a member of this Lodge, was the Colonel), for three months' service during the Rebellion. While engaged in this labor of love, he met with an accident, falling and fracturing his knee-cap, which caused his lameness during the remainder of his life. It was sometimes playfully said of him that he had the "Grand Lodge walk." This was owing to no affectation, nor mere disease, but to his patriotic and successful effort to be of service to his country when rebels threatened that country's life.

At the time of his death Brother Captain GEORGE W. WOOD was an honorary member of the "Old Guard" of the Washington Grays. Concordia Lodge, No. 67, has contributed largely to the membership of this Company of military veterans. Among the members of this Lodge still living who are members of the "Old Guard," are the following well-known Brethren: Col. PETER C. ELLMAKER, Captain JACOB LAUDENSLAGER, AUSTIN J. MONTGOMERY,

JAMES G. HARDIE, GEORGE L. SENAT, WILLIAM H. KERN, ROBERT W. DOWNING, JOHN A. BELL, and HENRY W. GORMAN; and among those now deceased were Brothers SAMUEL A. BISPHAM, CHARLES P. WARNER, JOSEPH N. PIERSOL, and GEORGE W. STOUT.

The Masonic career of Brother WOOD was long and distinguished. He was made a Mason (I say this with fraternal pride) in Concordia Lodge, No. 67, F. and A. M., Philadelphia, on November 11, 1853; Crafted December 22, 1853, and Raised January 26, 1854. In December, 1857, he was elected Junior Warden of the Lodge, in 1858 Senior Warden, and in 1859 Worshipful Master. On December 27, 1862, he was appointed Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and reappointed in 1863. In 1867 he was again appointed, and thereafter served continuously for nineteen years as Grand Marshal of Grand Lodge, up to the period of his death.

Brother WOOD was "marked" in Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214, on May 9, 1854, and received the Most Excellent and Royal Arch degrees in Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 91, Philadelphia, on November 15, 1854. In December, 1857, he was elected King of the Chapter, and in 1858, M. E. High Priest. In December, 1880, M. E. Comp. WOOD was elected Treasurer of Chapter No. 91, and served by re-election continuously thereafter until his death.

In November, 1860, M. E. Comp. WOOD was elected Grand Scribe of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania; in 1861 and 1862, Grand King; and in 1863 and 1864, he was elected and served as M. E. Grand High Priest.

Brother WOOD was elected W. M. of Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214, in December, 1858, and in 1876 was elected Treasurer of the Mark Lodge, and thereafter served continuously by re-election as Treasurer for eleven years, up to the time of his death.

The Royal and Select Master's degrees were conferred on Brother WOOD in Philadelphia Council, No. 11, in 1860, and he was elected T. I. Grand Master of the Council in December, 1862. He received the Super Excellent degree on February 16, 1865—the degree of Super Excellent Master having been introduced into the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania about 1864.

At the time of his death Brother WOOD held the following Masonic offices: He was Grand Marshal of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; Treasurer of Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214; Treasurer of Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 91; a Trustee of Concordia Lodge, No. 67, and its Representative to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

In all of these varied, honorable and responsible Masonic stations Brother WOOD exhibited indefatigable industry and large ability. His loss will be

severely felt in both Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and especially in the Grand Master's office, where he had long served as Private Secretary to the Grand Master.

One of Brother WOOD's distinguishing abilities was his power to correctly exemplify, by direction of the R. W. Grand Master, the Work of Masonry. He was very often called upon to perform this important Masonic duty, and no Brother survives him who has his long experience, and probably there is no one who can so skillfully rehearse the Work of Ancient Craft Masonry.

Here permit me to say, I can scarcely realize the sad fact that the two distinguished Brethren who for two successive years occupied opposite sides of the same office table in the Grand Master's room in our Masonic Temple, Brother E. COPPÉE MITCHELL, R. W. Grand Master, and Brother GEORGE W. WOOD, the Grand Master's Private Secretary, have both within one brief month been raised to the Grand Lodge above! Mysterious Providence! Two ornaments of the Craft almost simultaneously translated! The accomplished gentleman, the learned lawyer, the honored Grand Master, whom every Brother in Pennsylvania respected and loved, and who was only in his manhood's prime—Brother MITCHELL; and the Masonic veteran, the working Mason, the authorized teacher of the Craft—Brother WOOD; both knowing each other

so well, both so intimately connected with the Fraternity, and so honored in its service, passing away within a few days of each other, and leaving us, and the entire Brotherhood in Pennsylvania, their mourners! May we not say of them what the Great Light says of Saul and Jonathan:

“They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided.”

I fancy I can now peer through the portals of the Celestial Lodge, and there in the East, near by the Grand Architect of the Universe, are the glorified spirits of our late Grand Master, E. COPPÉE MITCHELL, and Grand Marshal, GEORGE W. WOOD.

And why should not he whom we specially honor to-night have passed through the pearly portals of the upper Lodge, and stand in the presence of Jehovah, having found the “Lost Word,” and been admitted to the presence of Him who said, “Let there be Light, and there was Light?”

Brother WOOD’s benefactions to Masonry none of us can ever forget. As Cæsar remembered the Roman people in his last will, so did Brother WOOD remember his Brethren. One thousand dollars given to the permanent fund of Concordia Lodge, No. 67—his mother Lodge; one thousand dollars more to the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; two hundred dollars to the Episcopal Hospital; and one hundred and fifty dollars each to two other charities, besides

liberal gifts to his Brethren and relatives—these bequests reveal the abounding charity, the pure and undefiled Masonry, of our lamented Brother WOOD. In the language of Abraham Lincoln, he had “malice towards none, and charity for all.”

“ A thousand fantasies
Begin to throng into my memory ”

as I ponder on his great-hearted acts and his noble example. When I shall have served my generation, and been gathered to my fathers, I could wish no truer “well done, good and faithful servant,” than we can all pronounce as we contemplate the Masonic career of Brother GEORGE W. WOOD. And we need not merely fondly wish, but may truthfully believe, that already the Grand Master of the Universe has said to him, “Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

